

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 231284

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CGEN, BGEN

SUBJECT: VISAS OF SOVIET TRADE OFFICIALS IN LIGHT OF THE
CRAWFORD CASE

REF: MOSCOW 21724; MOSCOW 19843

1. THE DEPARTMENT APPRECIATES THE EMBASSY'S SUGGESTION
TO DENY A RE-ENTRY VISA TO AN EMPLOYEE OF THE KAMA
PURCHASING COMMISSION IN RETALIATION FOR THE DECISION OF
THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE TO DENY FRANCIS CRAWFORD A
SOVIET RE-ENTRY VISA. AFTER CAREFUL CONSIDERATION, WE HAVE
DECIDED TO PROCEED WITH THE ISSUANCE OF ALL RPT ALL VISAS
WHICH HAVE BEEN DELAYED PENDING RESOLUTION OF THE CRAWFORD
CASE. VISA AUTHORIZATIONS WILL BE STRETCHED OUT OVER TWO
WEEK PERIOD.

2. WHILE WE DO NOT NOW INTEND TO RETALIATE DIRECTLY FOR
SOVIET ACTION AGAINST CRAWFORD, THEIR ACTION WILL BE KEPT
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IN MIND IN THE CONTEXT OF THE CURRENT REVIEW THE DEPARTMENT
HAS UNDERTAKEN OF THE STAFFING OF SOVIET COMMERCIAL ORGAN-
IZATIONS IN THE US. THE OBJECTIVE IS TO EXAMINE STAFFING
IN THE CONTEXT NOT ONLY OF CEILINGS WHICH HAVE BEEN
ESTABLISHED BUT ALSO WITH REFERENCE TO THE SIZE OF
INDIVIDUAL MISSIONS IN RELATION TO THEIR ACTUAL NEEDS.

3. THE DEPARTMENT WOULD WELCOME ANY OBSERVATIONS EMBASSY
MIGHT WISH TO CONTRIBUTE AS WE PROCEED WITH THIS STUDY.
WE WOULD PARTICULARLY APPRECIATE ANY EMBASSY INSIGHTS ON
US FIRMS' ACTUAL NEED FOR SOVIET PERSONNEL IN THE US. FOR
EXAMPLE, DID THE FACT THAT THE KAMA STAFF FELL BY ONE
THIRD ELICIT ANY INQUIRIES OUTSIDE THAT REPORTED ON REFTEL
B? IF SO, WHICH KAMA REPRESENTATIVES WERE INVOLVED? CHRISTOPHER

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